

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1. WASHINGTON POST NEWS STORIES ON AFGHAN COUP FILED FROM NEW DELHI OVER PAST TWO DAYS ATTRIBUTE DETAILED INFO ON EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN TO AMERICAN AND WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. OBVIOUS (AND IN ONE CASE EXPLICIT) THAT BRIEFINGS BASED ON INFO RELIEVED FROM U.S. EMBASSY DELHI.

2. DEPT IS CONCERNED THAT IDENTIFICATION, IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT, OF U.S. SOURCES FOR PUBLIC INFO ON COUP MAY CAUSE US PROBLEMS WITH NEW REGIME IN KABUL.

Department of State TELEGRAM

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UNJECT: NEWS STORIES ON AFGHAN COUP

WASHINGTON POST NEWS STORIES ON AFGHAN COUP FILED  
NUM. NEW DELHI, OVER PAST TWO DAYS ATTITUDE DETAILED  
AFU ON EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN TO AMERICAN AND WESTERN  
(DIPLOMATIC SOURCES) OBVIOUS (AND IN ONE CASE EXPLICIT)  
MAY SHIFTINGS BASED ON INFO RECEIVED FROM U.S. EMBASSY  
ELMI.

1. DEPT-IS CONCERNED THAT IDENTIFICATION, IMPLICIT OR EXPLICIT, OF U.S. SOURCES FOR PUBLIC INFO ON COUP MAY CAUSE US PROBLEMS WITH NEW REGIME IN BAGDAD.

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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(X) YES  
( ) DENY

( ) Non-responsive info.

( ) DOWNGRADE TS ( ) SUT ( ) C. OADR

# TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

[WORDS EXCISED]

SECONDLY, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SOURCES IN KABUL FOR EMBASSY REPORTS MAY BE EMBARRASSED OR COMPROMISED, WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED TO SEE REFERENCE IN POST TO POINT THAT ONLY US MILITARY OFFICERS WERE INITIALLY INVOLVED IN PUTTING COUP TOGETHER, AND ALSO TO DAUD'S REPORTED BELIEF THAT NEXT 30 TO 48 HOURS WOULD SEE IF COUNTER COUP WOULD BE ATTEMPTED, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE

[WORDS EXCISED]

FINALLY, IN PREPARING STAGE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEW AFGHAN REGIME, WE WANT TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC COMMENT THAT COULD UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONSHIP.

3. FOR ABOVE REASONS, WE PREFER THAT PRESS BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN BE HANDLED FROM DEPT. RUSH.

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